

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 23, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-21 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 22 has been added. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 1-22 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/42809 to Hartmaier (hereinafter Hartmaier). The rejection is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in claims 1-6, 8-9 and 17-21 and newly added claim 22.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-18 depend, recites a method for handling a call setup request from a calling party to a called party. The method includes maintaining, for the called party, multiple simultaneous caller groups, each caller group comprising one or more members, multiple simultaneous profiles, multiple simultaneous redirection settings, and multiple simultaneous associations of a caller group, a profile and a redirection setting. The method also includes for each of several changes of reachability of the called party, receiving an indication of a current profile of the called party and based on the call setup request, determining the identity of the calling party. The method

also includes based on the determined identity of the calling, determining one of the multiple simultaneous caller groups and determining one of the multiple associations that corresponds to the determined caller group and the current profile of the called party. The method further includes processing the call setup request according to the redirection setting of the determined association.

Claim 19, upon which claims 20-21 depend, recites a reachability server for handling a call setup request from an calling party to a called party. The reachability server includes a database for maintaining, for the called party, multiple simultaneous caller groups, each caller group comprising one or more members, multiple simultaneous profiles, multiple simultaneous redirection settings, and multiple simultaneous associations of a caller group, a profile and a redirection setting. The server also includes an input unit configured to receive an indication of a current profile of the called party each time the reachability of the called party changes and a caller identifying unit configured to determine an identity of calling party based on the call setup request. The server also includes a caller group determining unit configured to determine one of the multiple simultaneous caller groups based on the determined identity of the calling. The server further includes an associations determining unit configured to determined one of the multiple associations that corresponds to the determined caller group and the current profile of the called party and a call processing unit configured to process the call setup request according to the redirection setting of the determined association.

As outlined below, Applicant submits that the cited reference of Hartmaier does

not teach or suggest the all of the elements of the pending claims.

Hartmaier discloses that calls are routed to a wireless device through a Mobile Switching Center (MSC). The MSC interacts with a Home Location Register (HLR) through a Signaling Transfer Point (STP) to retrieve information about called wireless devices. If the called user is unavailable, the call may be routed to a number or any communications device associated with the called subscriber.

According to Hartmaier, a calling party dials a number for a wireless device and transmits the number to the originating MSC. The originating MSC transmits the number to the SCP which provides service application for routing calls through a network. The SCP looks up the profile associated with a mobile identity number or the group profile that covers the mobile identity number and sends a message to the HLR. If the HLR determines that the called wireless device is powered on, it obtains a temporary local directory number from a destination MSC and sends the temporary number to the SCP. Thus, the SCP communicates with the HLR to determine if the called wireless device is reachable, before translating the dialed code and returning it to the originating MSC. The originating MSC then routes the call to the destination MSC for the destination MSC to complete the call. In an alternative, the SCP looks up the profile of the called party to determine if the calling party has been authorized to make the call. See at least figures 1 and 3 and page 6, line 27 to page 8, line 1.

Applicants submit that Hartmaier does not teach or suggest each of the elements recited in the pending claims. Each of the presently pending claims recites for each of

several changes of reachability of the B party, **receiving an indication of a current profile of the called party** and determining one of the multiple associations that correspond to the determined caller group and the current profile of the called party. The Office Action alleged that page 4, lines 16-17, page 7, lines 6-11 and page 9, lines 2-5 of Hartmaier disclose these feature. However, the cited sections of Hartmaier merely disclose updating the user profile, recognizing, by the SCP, that the called number corresponds to a wireless device and locating the wireless device by sending a message to the HLR, and allowing a user to set up profiles for each communication device so that only selected users may communicate on that communication device.

As disclosed on page 11, line 30 – page 12, line 13 of the current specification, when a called party's reachability setting changes, the called party updates his current profile in the server. In other words, in the present invention, the called party selects a pre-existing profile in the server as the current profile and the server attempts to retrieve the redirection settings record corresponding to the calling party's group and the called party current profile. There is no teaching of suggestion in Hartmaier of receiving an indication of a current profile of the called party, when the reachability of the called party changes, as recited in the pending claims. There also is no teaching or suggestion in Hartmaier of determining one of the multiple associations that correspond to the determined caller group and the current profile of the called party, as recited in the pending claims.

The Office Action also cited page 8, lines 30-31 of Hartmaier as disclosing multiple simultaneous profiles. Figure 3 and pages 8 lines 27-31 of Hartmaier describe “destination telephone profiles” In the present invention, on the other hand, the profile is a “reachability profile” as shown, for example in figure 4.

Moreover, the Office Action alleged that Hartmaier discloses processing the call setup request in the called terminal, as recited in claim 3. However, the cited section does not teach or suggest processing the call setup request in the called terminal. Page 8, lines 14-26 of Hartmaier merely discloses that a call from a wireless network could be forwarded to a wirelined network, if a called wireless device is unavailable. Based on the distinctions presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn because Hartmaier fails to teach or suggest each feature of claims 1 and 19 and hence, dependent claims 2-6, 8-9 and 17-21 thereon.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartmaier, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,889,845 to Staples (hereinafter Staples). According to the Office Action, Hartmaier teaches all of the elements of claim 7 except for assigning a unique virtual number to the called party, routing the call setup request to the virtual number of the called party and determining the called party’s identity based on the virtual number. Therefore, the Office Action combined the teachings of Hartmaier and Staples to yield all of the elements of claim 7. The rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in claim 1 and hence dependent claim 7.

Staples teaches a system and method for enabling a remote user to maintain a virtual presence at a corporate office and behave substantially as if the user were physically present at the corporate office. First, the remote user establishes a virtual presence connection at the corporate office, including providing identification and security information. Once the remote user is connected, the virtual presence server instructs the corporate PBX to automatically forward all calls to the remote user. The virtual presence server also routes email, faxes, and LAN data to the remote user. The virtual presence server also extends the corporate PBX and corporate LAN features to the remote user, just as if the remote user were physically located in the corporate office. According to the invention, the remote user makes outgoing telephone calls, sends faxes, transmits data, sends email and performs Internet access as if the remote user were physically present in the corporate office. The virtual presence server and/or the user communication device also performs a call forwarding operation to forward telephone calls made to the user's home to the virtual presence server at the corporate office. These calls are then routed through the virtual presence server to the user's home. Thus the user can receive home telephone calls while the user is connected to the corporate office, wherein the home telephone calls are received on the same telephone line which is being used for the virtual presence connection. See at least the Abstract of Staples.

Claim 7 depends on claim 1 and therefore incorporates all of the elements of claim 1. Staples does not cure any of the deficiencies of Hartmaier as outlined above. Specifically, Staples does not teach or suggest for each of several changes of reachability

of the called party, receiving an indication of a current profile of the called party and determining one of the multiple associations that correspond to the determined caller group and the current profile of the called party, as recited in claim 1, upon which claim 7 depends. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Hartmaier nor Staples, whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests each feature of claim 1 and hence, dependent claim 7 thereon.

Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartmaier in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,125,178 to Walker (hereinafter Walker). According to the Office Action, Hartmaier teaches all of the elements of claims 10-16 except for processing a call setup request according to the changed call mode, wherein the changed call mode indicates an asymmetric call in which the calling party and called party use different call modes. Therefore, the Office Action combined the teachings of Hartmaier and Walker to yield all of the elements of claims 10-16. The rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in claim 1, and hence dependent claims 10-16.

Walker discloses a call handling system directed at queuing a call when no agent is available to service the call, giving the caller an option to monitor (but not participate in) other caller conversations with similar queries, or to listen to recorded calls involving similar queries; querying a database using collected initial information as a search key(s) to retrieve a similar call currently being serviced or a recorded call and connecting the

caller to a communication channel to allow the monitoring of a call while not losing place in the queue for a next available agent. See at least the Abstract.

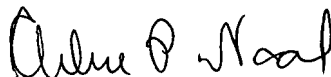
Claims 10-16 depend on claim 1 and therefore incorporates all of the elements of claim 1. Walker does not cure any of the deficiencies of Hartmaier as outlined above. Specifically, Walker does not teach or suggest for each of several changes of reachability of the called party, receiving an indication of a current profile of the called party and determining one of the multiple associations that correspond to the determined caller group and the current profile of the called party, as recited in claim 1, upon which claims 10-16 depend. Walker also does not teach or suggest text based chatting, as recited in claims 12-15. Instead, Walker discloses that the caller may “listen in” to an appropriate call in progress, an archived call or chat room. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither Hartmaier nor Walker, whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests each feature of claim 1 and hence, dependent claim 10-15 thereon.

As noted previously, claims 1-22 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-22 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
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